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## **“Elders” Visit Cypriot Youth**



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi visited Cyprus this week, with the aim to lend their support and encouragement to those working towards ending

the island's decades of division. USAID's Action for Cooperation and Trust project enhanced the quality of the Elders' visit by coordinating opportunities for the Elders to meet young people from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

“Today's young people are the ones who will live with the outcome of their leaders' work. The first time in their lives that they will cast a ballot may even to vote on the outcome of the current peace process. I hope that day is not far off. I am all too aware of the many years it has taken to get to this point,” said Jimmy Carter.

ACT facilitated interactive discussions between Cypriot youth from both communities with the Elders. The youth shared their concerns, fears, and ideas about the future of their country while the Elders spoke about their concern for the problem and their optimism about the current progress in the peace process.



## **Teaching History with an Intercultural Perspective**

More than 120 teachers attended an Intercultural Dialogue and History Teaching event Saturday, September 27, 2008. The workshop, part of USAID's Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT) project, featured international trainers from Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, and for the first time ever, workshops were facilitated by local Cypriot experts, with a special focus on Cypriot history.

The seminar offered professional capacity building based on the themes of interculturalism and diversity, respect, tolerance and social justice and provided opportunities for cross-community Cypriot dialogue and partnership. It also provided the participants with a forum to strengthen their existing local networks and include minority ethnic groups of Cyprus from both sides of the divide. The workshops aimed to strengthen and support the professionalism of Cypriot history educators, including one seminar on how to teach sensitive facts of Cyprus history.



*The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.*

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### *Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises*

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Visiting EDGE banking expert Gary Gegenheimer spoke at an event organized for the banking community in cooperation with the Turkish Cypriot Banks Association. The session, which included U.S. Ambassador Urbancic, focused on regulating the non-banking financial sector and other ways to combat money laundering. EDGE has extended its work in destination development to Famagusta, conducting a survey of businesses in the walled City and inspiring key stakeholders to come together in a steering committee to begin planning and implementing marketing initiatives. The Agri-business team continues to supervise the work of six interns who are working to improve the adoption of GLOBALGAP and other standards in production, including through field training.

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### *Resource Efficiency Achievement Project*

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REAP is assisting with the electricity utility's communications efforts, including dissemination of its fall campaign materials to raise awareness about energy efficiency. REAP has also been promoting collaboration between the civil society organization Energy Professionals Association and the electricity utility to help link the Association to energy efficiency resources and efforts.

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### *Capacity Development and Training*

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USAID has awarded a task order to World Learning for a two-year project to provide capacity development and training in critical areas. The Chief of Party arrived in Cyprus in early October and has begun to organize World Learning's operations.

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### *Action for Cooperation and Trust*

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The ACT-funded Center for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology held their Reconciliation and Social Justice Pedagogies Conference on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to showcase their project of the same name. The purpose of the project is to bring together scholars to look at the roles that multiculturalism, social justice and collective identity play in the process of reconciliation. The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe's "Joint History Project" held a press conference to launch supplementary history teaching material for Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot History educators. The new materials, in both Greek and Turkish, help meet Cypriot teachers' need for seeing historical developments from differing viewpoints.

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### *Supporting Activities that Value the Environment*

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Thanks to extensive training and assistance provided by SAVE, water managers are better able to model and manage a significant aquifer on the Karpas peninsula. A practical application of this modeling exercise is the development of an early warning system to track aquifer levels—something that will be used to educate the local population. Work is nearly complete under the small grant for the preservation of the medieval Maronite Church in Cambili, a project that brings together the Maronite community and Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot experts. SAVE organized a meeting of the partners, including the USAID Representative and Embassy DCM Jonathan Cohen, at the project site on September 29.



*While in Cyprus, DOS Deputy Assistant Secretary Graffy joined Ambassador Urbancic and USAID Representative Davis on a visit to Peristerona Village, where they toured the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of Sts. Barnabas and Hilarion, the 16th century village mosque, and the Bishopric of Morphou's Multiuse Bicommunal Center, an historic building restored with ACT funding.*



## News from Nicosia

### October 8-11

Three members of the Elders – Laktar Brahimi, Jimmy Carter, and Desmond Tutu—visit Cyprus to meet with political leaders, civil society representatives and young people from the island's Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities.

### October 10

Under the auspices of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, Demetris Chistofias and Mehmet Ali Talat meet for the third time to discuss issues and assess progress towards achieving a comprehensive settlement.

## OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
  - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
  - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
  - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.